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COUNTY ROADS.

Report of Road Commissioners for 1877.

For The Building Of Wagon Roads From Phoenix To Globe, Prescott and Yuma.

TO THE HONORABLE,

Gentleman:

The Board of Supervisors. Maricopa County, Territory of Arizona.

ments of an Act of the Ninth Legislative Assembly, approved February 9th, 1877, entitled; an Act authorizing a loan on the faith and credit of the County of Maricopa, Territory of Arizona, and to provide for building a wagon road from Phoenix in Maricopa County, to Globe City, in Pinal County, and roads to Prescott, via Black Canyon, and via cf Wickenburg, and road from Phoenix to Yuma via Agua Caliente: we have the honor to report as follows:

DECLINED TO ACCEPT.

The Board of Wagon Road Commissioners under the above Act, met in the Town of Phoenix on the 28th day of February, 1877, and there were present John Smith and J. B Barton. The Board was organized by the election of John Smith, as Chairman. Charles T. Hayden one of the Commissioners named in the Act, declined to accept office of Commissioner.

CLERK EMPLOYED.

The Commission employed J. T. Alsap, as clerk of the Board and then proceeded to locate the following roads, viz., from Phœnix to Globe City, commencing at the north-east corner of the Town of Phoenix, running thence east on section lines a distance of two (2) miles. And road from Phoenix to Prescott via Black Canyon, commencing at the north-west corner of the Town of Phenix, and running thence north on section lines a distance of two (2) miles. And road from Phoenix to Prescott via Wickenburg, commencing at the north-west corner of the Town of Phoenix and running thence north a distance of two (2) miles. And the road from Phoenix to Yuma their face value. via Agua Caliente, commencing at the north-west corner of the Town of Phoenix, and running thence west on section lines a distance of two (2)

miles. THE ROAD FROM PHENIX TO YUM March 1877. The Commission awarded to King S. Woolsey, the contract to build the road from Phœnix to Yuma via Agua Caliente, to be completed on or before the first day of June 1877, for the sum of fifteen hundred dollars in County

THE ROAD ACCEPTED.

It appearing by the report of one of the Commissioners who was appointed a committee of one, for the purpose of examining the road, that the said King S. Woolsey had complied with his contract, it was ordered that the Bonds be issued in accordance with said contract : and in accordance with said order Bonds Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, of the value of two hundred and fifty dollars each issued April 11th, 1877, were delivered to said King S. Woolsey and the road was accepted.

SEALED PROPOSALS.

June 3rd, 1877. The Wagon Road Commissioners ordered notices to be posted in three public places, advertising that scaled proposals would be received on or before June 13th, 1877, by the Commission, in the Town of Phoenix, for the construction of roads from Phoenix to Wickenburg and from Phoenix to

Swilling's Ranch on the Agua Fr'a, to be paid for in County Bonds at their par value.

CONTRACT LET.

On said 13th day of June, 1877, the Road Commission met in the Town of Phoenix and proceeded to open all the bids offered. J. H. Pierson off-red to construct a road from Wickenburg on the west side of the Hass syampa, ranning on the runry, is, or more correctly was, cal-

The Board after mature deliberation on the bids, awarded the contract to Martin Thompson, for the County Bonds at their par value.

TURE MINE ACCEPTED. 1877, and it was ordered that Bonds

road be accepted. THE ROAD FROM PHENIX TO SWIL-LING'S RANCH ACCEPTED.

port of John Smith, that Bonds to the amount of fourteen hundred dollars be issued to Martin Thompson, he having completed his contract on the road from Phoenix to Swilling's Ranch on the Agua Fria, as per contract of June 14th, 1877.

THE COUNTY BONDS ADVERTISED FOR SALE.

Road Commissioners, advertised the sale of ten thousand six hundred dollars of the County Bonds, according to law, but up to this date there has been no offer for the Bonds at the minimum price at which they can be sold, viz., eighty per cent. of

AMOUNT OF BONDS ISSUED.

Herewith we hand you an abstract of the amount of Londs received from the County Treasurer and amount issued to the several contractors for building roads, the amount ally consisting of a single sheet of on of Bonds still on hand, date of issue of same, and amount of present indebtedness of the Commission.

ABSTACT "A." Board of Wago : Road Commissioners of Mari copa County, in account with said County.

1877, April 11th, To Bends Ison d, Nos. 1 to 6 81,5:000 inclinative, S1,5:0000 May 19th. To Bonds Lancel, Nos. 7 to 26, inclusive. 5,000,00 to 60, inclusive, 8,500.00 8,700.00 to 60, inclusive, 8,500.00

Total, - 615.000,00 CONTRA: CONTRA.

April 11th. By Bonds delivered to King S. Woolsey.

Aug. 15th. By Bonds delivered to Marin Thompsot.

Aug. 15th. By Bonds delivered to J. H. Pierson.

Oct. 4th. By Bonds delivered to J. B. Baron.

By mount of Bonds on heart this date. 21 10,500,00

Total, - \$15,000,00 ABSTRACT "B."

Showing present indebtedness of the To J. T. Alsap, J. B Barton, W. H. Reynolds, John Wasses, 15 00 Total indebtedness to date, - \$607.62

It appears doubtful at present of that name recorded, ac trace of whether the Bonds on hand can be sold at the figure named in the Act, and if not, it will be impossible to complete the read from Phoenix to Globe City.

The completion of said road at an early date is, in our opinion, of the utmost importance to our County.

Very Respectfully, Your Obedient Servants, JOHN SMITH, Com'rs.

VALENTINE'S DAY.

The Fourteenth Day Of February.

How It Was Celebrated In The Fifteenth Century Its Present Observance.

Valentine's day, the 14th of Feb-

line's lected by John Smith, (one of chrated in England, Scotland, and in the Commissioners) to the present different parts of the continent, partraveled road from Smith's Mill to ticularly Lorraine and Maine in In accordance with the required the Vulture Mine, for the sum of France, by a very peculiar and amusfifteen hundred dollars in County ing custom. On the eve of St. Valentine, a number of young folk-This being the only bid offered, maids and batchelors-would asthe Board after careful examination semble together, and inscribe upon of the proposal of J. H. Pie:son, ac- little billets the names of an equal cepted the same and awarded him number of maids and batchelors of their acquaintance, the ow the whole FROM PHIENIX TO SWILLINGS RANCH. in a receptuele of some sort, and Three bids were offered for the then draw them lottery-wise-care, construction of the real from Phose of course, being taken that each nix to Swilling's Ranch on the Agua should draw one of the opposite sex. The person thus drawn became one's valentine. Of course, besides having got a valentine for one's self, one became, by the universality of sum of fourteen hundred dollars, in the practice, some other persons valentine; but, as Misson, a learned ROAD FROM WICKENBURG TO VUL- traveller in the early part of last century, remarks, 'the man stuck fas-October 4th, 1877. John Smith ter to the valentine that had fallen reported that J. H. Pierson had to him, than to her to whom he had completed the road from Wicken- fallen.' These imaginery engageburg as per contract of June 13th, ments, as may be readily supposed, often lead to real ones; bee use one to the amount of fifteen hundred dol- necessary consequence of them was lars, be issued to him and that the that for a whole year, a batchelor remained bound to the service of his valentine, somewhat after the fashion of a medieval knight of romance It was also ordered upon the re- to his lady-l ve. At one period, it was customary for both sexes to make each other presents, but latterly the obligation seems to have been restricted to young men. Durthe fifteenth century, this amusement was very popular among the upper classes, and at many European courts. We see that in Charles July 14th, 1877. The Board of IL's reign, married as well as single people could be chosen.

> at least in England and Scotlandhas ceased to possess the graceful symbolic meaning it used to have, and has become a considerable nuisance. 'The approach of the day is now heralded by the appearance in the news dealers shop-windows of vast numbers of missives calculated for use on this occasion, each generpost paper, on the first page of which is seen some rediculous-colored caricatore of the male or female figure, with a few burlesque verses below. More rarely, the print is of a sentimental kind, such as a view of Hymen's altar, with a pair undergoing initiation into wedded happiness before it, while Cupid flutters above, and hearts transfixed with his dar; decorate the corners. Maid-servants and young fellows interchange such quistles with each other on the 14th, of February, no doubt conceiving that the joke is amazingly good; and, generally, the newspapers do not fail to record that the post-men delivered so many thousand more letters on that day than they do in general

For some time back, the festival

The connection of the custom with St. Valentine is purely accidental. In the legends of the differ at saints the practice peculiar to the 14th of February is found.

In Bailey's Dictionary the following explanation is given: 'About this time of the year the birds choose their mates, and probably thence came the custom of the young men and maidens choosing valentines or special loving friends on that day.'

ADVERTISE in the HARALD.